Statement-II

Number of tourist arrived to North-East States

State/UT	2003		2004		2005	
	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign
Arunachal Pradesh	2195	123	4740	269	3005	289
Assam	2156675	6610	2288093	7285	2467652	10782
Manipur	92923	257	93476	249	94299	316
Meghalaya	371953	6304	433495	12407	375901	5099
Mizoram	35129	279	38598	326	44715	273
Nagaland	5605	743	10056	1084	17470	883
Sikkim	179661	11966	230719	14646	251744	16523
Tripura	257331	3196	260907	3171	216330	2677

Security arrangements for tourists in Kashmir

†1610. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the number of tourists in the Kashmir valley has declined considerably as a result of attacks on them;

(b) the number of attacks on tourists and number of tourists died in such attacks during the last six months; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to attract more tourist and to strengthen the security arrangements?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) As per the report of the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir, there has been a slight decline in domestic tourist traffic to the valley as compared to last year. Upto 26th of July, 2006 3,49,166 domestic tourists visited the valley this year as compared to 3,65,818 during the same period last year. However, there has been a slight increase in foreign tourists

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

arrival to the valley during the period. Upto 26th of July 2006, 10,317 foreign tourists visited the valley this year as compared to 9,777 during the period last year.

(b) The State Government in their report have mentioned that the position of terrorist attacks on tourists during the last six months are as under:

Year	No. of attacks	Killed	Injured
2006 up to 30.07.2006	09	15	55

(c) The steps taken by the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir and Security Forces in an endeavor to make the security environment progressively safe for tourists include-deployment of separate tourist police and enforcement wing at Srinagar/Jammu and other tourist places to look after and protect the interests of the tourists; adequate deployment of Security forces/State police with regular patrolling and anti-sabotage checks around the tourist spots and roads leading to such places; permanent security arrangements at the Shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi at Katra and its proximity; arrangement of special security arrangements for pilgrims visiting Shri Amarnath Ji Cave, Pahalgam and Kheer Bhawani; organising special FAM tours of travel trade from Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata and Hyderabad to Kashmir from 2nd to 6th of August 2006.

Simplification of licence to guest houses

†1611. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken or propose to take any steps to simplify the licencing process for guest houses in view of the inadequate number of hotels for tourists in States including the capital of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.